

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A FPD protecting film comprising:

a film body comprising of any one of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO, alkali earth compound oxides, rare earth oxides, or compound oxides of alkali earth oxides and rare earth oxides, wherein the film body is present on the surface of a substrate; and

a fluoride layer present on the surface of the film body, wherein the fluoride layer is represented by the formula



wherein M is Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, an alkali earth complex metal, a rare earth metal, or a complex metal of an alkali earth metal and rare earth metal, $0 < X < 2$ and $1 \leq Y \leq 4$.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The FPD protecting film according to Claim 1, wherein the fluoride layer is obtained by reaction of a gaseous fluorinating agent with any one selected from the group consisting of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO, an alkali earth compound oxide, a rare earth oxide, and a compound oxide of alkali earth oxides and rare earth oxides.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The FPD protecting film according to Claim 4, wherein the gaseous fluorinating agent comprises a fluorine gas, a hydrogen fluoride gas, BF_3 , SbF_5 or SF_4 .

Claim 6 (Currently Presented). A FPD protecting film according to ~~any one of~~
~~Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the fluoride layer is 0.1 to 1000 nm.

Claims 7-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A FPD comprising a protecting film according to
~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1.

Claims 19-25 (Canceled).

Appl. No. 09/457,743

Reply to Office Action of May 7, 2003

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6 and 18 are active in the present application. Claims 2-3, 7-17 and 19-25 have been cancelled. No new matter is entered.